(c)' by when this project will be completed; and *

(d) the quantum of power the Vidarbha region would get from the said project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) NTPC Ltd. proposes to set up Mauda Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) at Mauda in Nagpur district of Maharashtra. Site specific studies and investigations have been completed. Feasibility Report for the project has been finalized and the same has been approved by the Project Subcommittee of NTPC Board on 30th January, 2007. Action has been initiated by NTPC Ltd. for obtaining necessary clearances including clearances from State Pollution Control Board and for acquisition of land. Subject to timely clearances, the project is envisaged to be commissioned during XI Plan period.

(d) Mauda is envisaged as a regional station for the benefit of States/ UTs located in the Western Region. Power from this project shall be supplied to all the beneficiaries in line with the prevailing guidelines including 10% additional share to Maharashtra, being the home State. Further distribution of power to Vidarbha or other regions of Maharashtra will be decided by the State.

Power position in the country

3441. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electricity cuts last for three to seven hours per day in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that private distribution has not improved the situation; and

(d) what action Government contemplate to take for bringing radical improvement in the power situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) There is overall shortage of power in the country. The shortages vary from State to State and season to season, as well as times of day

depending on the demand and supply of power. Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the respective State Governments which make arrangements for supply of power to various categories of consumers/areas in the State. Load shedding and power cuts are resorted to by the respective State depending on demand of power and its availability and their priorities for distribution. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State by way of addition to generation capacity and establishment of bulk high voltage transmission system in the Central Sector through Central Public Sector Undertakings.

The details of State-wise notified power cuts during the month of March, 2007 are given the enclosed statement (See below).

The main reasons for shortage of power are as under:

(i) Demand for power in the states outstripping the growth in their generation and capacity addition.

(ii) Low Plant Load Factor of some of the thermal generating units, mostly in the State Sector.

(iii) Inadequate availability of gas.

(iv) High Aggregate Technical and Commercia) (AT&C) losses including theft of electricity.

(v) Poor financial position of state utilities making it difficult for them to raise the resources necessary for making required investments to create adequate generation, transmission and distribution system.

(c) The distribution of electricity has been privatized in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and in the State of Orissa. Under the Electricity Act, 2003, the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have been entrusted the function of specifying and enforcing the standards with respect to quality, continuity and reliability of services by licensees. As reported by the States of Orissa and Delhi and their respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, the experience of electricity distribution privatization in these States has been satisfactory.

.(d) The following steps have been taken/are being taken to improve overall availability of power in the country.

(i) Improving Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal power stations.

(ii) "Partnership in Excellence" Programme starting with adoption of better operation and maintenance (O&M) practices to enable enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal power stations through tie-up with well performing power utilities as a pre-cursor to renovation and modernization.

(iii) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the on-going generation projects.

(iv) Advance planning of generation capacity addition projects for the 11th Five Year Plan and 12th Five Year Plan.

(v) Implementation of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to achieve benefit of economy of scale.

(vi) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units with interest subsidy on loans by the Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation under "Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP).

(vii) Tapping of surplus power from captive power plants.

(viii) Utilization of unutilized capacity of gas based stations on liquid fuel

(ix) Strengthening/Augmentation of sub-transmission system in State under Accelerated Power- Development Reforms Programme (APDDR) as a major step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Losses.

(x) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally, utilize the existing generation capacity.

(xi) Optimum utilization of available power by strengthening of interstate and inter-regional transmission capacity.

(xii) Promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.

(xiii) rigorous monitoring of production, transportation and supply of coal by an Inter-Ministerial Group comprising representatives of Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railwa'ys, Central Electricity Authority and Coal India Limited on weekly/fortnightly basis to review and resolve the constraints.

(xiv) Procurement of hydro-electric power from Bhutan.

Statement

Notified Power Cuts/Restrictions on Industries during March, 2007

State/Region	Energy Cut	Demand cut
1	2	3
Northern Region		
Chandigarh	Nil	Nil
Delhi	Nil	Nil
Haryana	0to1.8MU/dayHT industries at different timing and differnet days.	0 to 200 MW cut on HT industries at different timing and different days.
Himachal Pradesh	0.255 MU/day on HT/LT industries	85 MW cut from 17:30 hrs to 20:30 hrs. daily on HT/LT industries. 50% load off for 17 hrs in Jammu area;
Jammu & Kashmir	\	50% load off for 15 hrs daily and in addition twice a week 28.7% Load off for 7 hrs in Valley area.
Punjab	1 8 MU/day on HT/LT industries.	600 MW cut from 1830 to 21:30 hrs . on HT/LT industries.
Rajasthan	Nil	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil
Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil
Western Region	0.650 MU/day on HT Industries	119.71 MW (AV) power cut onHT
Chhattisgarh	All industries are required to keep their recess timings staggered.	Industries from 1800 hrs to 2400 hrs All industries are required to stagger their weekly off days and cannot avail as per their choice.

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
Maharashtra	Nil	Nil
Goa	Nil	Nil
Southern Region		
Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil
Karnataka	Nil	Nil
Kerala	Nil	Nil
Tamil Nadu	Nil, However, all welding sets irrespective of connected load were not allowed to work between 6 p.m. and 8.40 p.m.	
Eastern Region		
Bihar	Nil	Nil
DVC	1.22 MU power cut on HT	Nil
Jharkhand	Nil	Nil
Orissa	Nil	Nil
West Bengal	0.83 MU to LT	Nil

NOTE: Although some states have reported "No Notified Power Cuts", load shedding/ restrictions are imposed on industries on day to day basis depending upon availability of power *vis-a-vis* requirement.

Power shortage during summer months

3442. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Wilt the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Ministry's estimates there was a power deficit of 6.6 per cent in Delhi between April, 2006 and February, 2007, which is likely to increase during summer months;

(b) whether it is a fact that after April two private discoms in Delhi will have to procure power on their own and Government transmission utility will not be in picture; and

(c) if so, those responsible for present shortage of power and what action Public Grievances Cell of Power Department has taken so far to check/ensure full supply of power during ensuing summer months in capital?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) During the period April, >06 to February' 07 the peak shortage in Delhi